

MOST BEAUTIFUL BIRD.

A Rare Feathered Inhabitant of Western Africa.

The Wild Bird of Paradise and its Gorgeous Plumage. It inhabits an Inhabitant of Western Africa.

Through the kindness of Mr. W. Stoff, regn, importer of birds, New York city, the Scientific American was enabled to give a representation of this beautiful bird. The widow bird of paradise, or widow bird, as it is called by the natives, is an inhabitant of western Africa, being found throughout the districts of Senegal and Angola; and as it is of a light and airy disposition it gives a lively aspect to the trees among which it lives. The paradise widow bird is very gorgeously clothed with soft and gracefully shaped plumage. The general color of the male bird in his full dress is a deep black on the wings, tail and back, with a collar of bright yellow. The head and throat are also black, the breast being of a rich reddish brown just below the throat to center of breast, where it softly melts into the pale color of the abdomen and under portion of the body. The tail of the bird is most singularly formed. Both webs of the two central feathers are extremely broad for about three inches, and then suddenly disappear, leaving the bare slender shaft to project for about two inches. The two next feathers are equally elongated and rather broadly webbed, being nearly three-quarters of an inch wide. They are often more than eleven inches long, and sweep in a graceful curve from the insertion of their quills to the extremity of their points. All the feathers of the tail are set vertically, so that the profile is much more striking than the full view.

This bird has been commonly called the widow bird by many persons on account of its dark color and long train.



WIDOW BIRDS OF PARADISE.

as well as in consequence of its evidently disconsolate state when the beautiful tail feathers have fallen off after the breeding season. Of late years the widow bird has come into fashion in England and France as an inhabitant of the aviary. Some of the French dealers have succeeded in breeding these birds.

On account of its peculiarly long tail the widow bird requires a very roomy cage, with perches of considerable height and so arranged as not to interfere with its movements. It is very fond of bathing, and like many other birds, bursts into a cry of gratitude when supplied with water.

Its nest is ingeniously woven from vegetable fibers, said to be wholly those of cotton down, and is divided into two compartments, one being for the use of the female and her eggs or young and the other for a seat for the male, whereupon he may perch himself to sing to his family. The broad-shafted widow bird is about the size of a sparrow, measuring between five and six inches, exclusive of the elongated tail feathers. After the breeding season the beautiful plumes fall out and the whole coloring of the bird is changed from the deep black and orange into rusty brown and dull white. The proper name of this bird is widow bird, a title that was originally given to it by a Portuguese, because the first specimen brought to Europe came from the kingdom of Widah, on the eastern coast of Africa.

Want to See the Babies. The attaches of the white house report that a peculiarity of the women visitors to the white house is the desire of one and all to see the babies. Capt. Dabois, who is in charge of the white house attendants, says: "There is not one in a hundred of the lady visitors who come here who does not ask to see the little ones as soon as possible, as she enters the house. I have had them tell me they would sooner see the baby than the president himself. No matter how much they are told that the president's family is not on exhibition, they continue to beg and plead for just one look, and seem to feel aggrieved when the refusal becomes compulsory. All women love babies, of course, so I suppose it's only natural."

End of a Legal Strike.

The famous strike of the Lawyers' corporation of the city of Rome, in Ancona, France, is ended. One of these lawyers, or advocates, having been improperly treated by a judge, his colleagues sided with him, and for five months they have refused to plead before the court, which was practically closed. At last due satisfaction has been given to the lawyers' corporation by M. Oudou, the president of the court district of Rome, and the advocates have resolved, in a meeting, to resume again their avocation and pleadings in that court.

Relics of Mound Builders.

Interesting relics of mound builders or Indians have been found at Sheboygan, Wis. Search has revealed quantities of human bones and all sorts of curious copper utensils and ornaments, including spurs, hatchets, battle axes and neck ornaments.

When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria. When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria. When she became a Girl, she clung to Castoria. When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

EDITOR AND REFORMER.

Remarkable Career of William T. Stead, the English Journalist.

William Thomas Stead, journalist and reformer, was born in Northumberland forty-four years ago. His ancestral stock was Puritan, his father a Congregationalist preacher, his family poor. His early education was narrow, but it imbued him with a knowledge of the Bible and a rugged Anglo-Saxon style of speech and writing. This peculiarity of quality has, perhaps, more than anything else, held to him the support of the nonconformist element in England. When four years old he was a clerk or office boy in the office of the Russian vice



WILLIAM THOMAS STEAD.

consul at Newcastle, with the consuming desire to become a journalist. He was so interested in office boy and clerk that influential friends interested themselves in him and his ambition and secured for him in 1871 the position of editor of the Northern Echo, a half-penny paper published in Darlington. He revolutionized the methods of the Northern Echo, which were those of the provincial press throughout England. Such was the ability he displayed and the reputation he gained that in 1880 he was invited by John Morley to become assistant editor of the Pall Mall Gazette. He succeeded to the editorship three years later and retained the position until 1889. As editor of the Pall Mall Gazette he introduced into English journalism the American "interview," also the "extra." He first became known in this country through the articles published in 1885 under the title "The Maiden Tribute of Modern Babylon." During the agitation these articles created he conceived the idea of demonstrating by practical test the truth of his allegations concerning the traffic in young girls by actually negotiating through a procurer for the purchase of one. For this he was imprisoned for three months on the charge of aiding in the abduction of a young girl. On his release he was given a monster welcome and reception at Exeter hall. It was his interview with "Chinese" O'Brien which attracted attention to the evils of the slave trade in the Sudan and led to the disastrous mission to Khartoum. In 1888 he went to Russia and interviewed the czar. The next year he interviewed Leo XIII. In 1890 he established the Review of Reviews. His latest exploits have been performed in Chicago. There was the Central Music hall meeting, his slumming tours, his affront to the women of Chicago at the woman's club meeting, and his work with shovel and hoe, cleaning the streets as one of the unemployed.

A FAITHFUL PRINCESS.

The Romantic Marriage of Elizabeth of Bavaria.

Elizabeth of Bavaria, the young granddaughter of the emperor of Austria, whose portrait appears below, is the only princess of the period whose marriage recalls the royal romances of medieval times. She loved "a squire of low degree"—or, at least, one of a degree lower than her own—and by force of faithfulness, sorrow and obstinacy has conquered her relatives and married him. The princess is only nineteen, and her husband, Count Baron Seefried von Buttenheim, is



PRINCESS ELIZABETH.

twenty-four. The young couple met at a court ball and fell in love at first sight; and separation, threats and remonstrances failed to move them. At last the emperor interfered in favor of his granddaughter, and prince and squire are now in their honeymoon, having been married at Genoa a few weeks ago. The emperor has bestowed a large fortune upon his granddaughter, besides giving her a wedding present of the beautiful castle and estate of Intereburg, in the Tyrol. The young baron, who belongs to an ancient but impoverished noble family, is a remarkably handsome man, a good soldier and very popular in his regiment.

Penny-in-the-Slot Gas.

A Liverpool hotel has put in some penny-in-the-slot gas fires. The system is applied to the gas supply so that a fire in the grate can be turned on when needed. The experiment has been tried in one bedroom for twelve months, and the machines are now to be put into every bedroom in the hotel.

An Entertaining Husband.

At the recent banquet of the Commercial exchange, Mayor Coughlin told a story which no one seemed to have heard before. "During the recent financial panic," he said, "a certain man, like many others, found one night that his real estate was unsalable, his firm bankrupt and his money locked up in a suspended bank. In deepest despondency he walked slowly home and greeted the companion of his joys and sorrows. 'Mary, he said, 'I'm bust! I've lost my money, my house and everything—everything.' 'No, John,' cried the loving wife as she cast herself upon his breast—not everything. You haven't lost me. 'That's so, Mary,' said the suffering brute—'that's so. I never reckoned that any of the liabilities would get away.' "

GENUINE WAR DOGS.

Military Canines Not the Creation of Poetic Fancy.

How They Are Used in Europe—Trained to Perform Duties as Scouts, Couriers and Members of the Ambulance Corps.

In Europe at the present time the dog is trained to display rare skill as a courier, a scout and a member of the relief corps, searching out and bringing succor to the wounded on the field of battle. The French were the first to realize the military value of the dog when fighting against the Kabyles in Tunis and Algeria. Next the Russians followed suit in the last eastern war, and then the Austrians, who consider the dog of the greatest use in discovering an ambush. The Dutch employ the animals for the same purpose in Achene, as a dog will give immediate warning of any foe concealed in the jungle. In Tonkin the French find dogs invaluable to prevent a surprise from the natives, for without such warning many solitary sentries and even small detachments have fallen victims to the hidden foe. Even in Switzerland large dogs are kept at Fort Fondo del Bosco, defending the St. Gothard pass above Airolo, for the purpose of accompanying sentries to outlying posts. The dogs are especially useful for communication in mountainous regions, as the Pyrenean smugglers have long found out.

For many years past experiments have been made frequently in various European countries to test the training of dogs for different services in the field—such as keeping watch, giving warning of ambushes, carrying messages and even conveying ammunition during a battle. Germany, France, Austria, Russia and Italy, with Bosnia and Herzegovina, are so well satisfied with the result as to permanently adopt the use of such canine helpers—sheep-dogs, especially the Scotch breed, and short-haired sporting-dogs.



A MEMBER OF THE RELIEF CORPS.

appear most suitable, while the French also use poodles and terriers. The Germans like the gray Pomeranians, which learn their work rapidly and are enormously strong; while the Austrians incline to the Scotch collie, where many of the points required in a war-dog are almost hereditary. Altogether the animals are easily trained for their duties, owing to their intelligence, keen scent and remarkable capacity for finding their way about, to say nothing of their perseverance, fidelity and attachment, not only to their special master, but to a whole regiment.

The trainer teaches the dog to recognize the uniform of all probable opponents and to warn his master of an approaching danger by pointing, never by barking, except in dire necessity. The process employed by the soldier of the kaiser to instill into the canine mind the fact that all German soldiers are his friends and all persons wearing the French and Russian uniforms his natural enemies, as described by a writer in the London Graphic, is interesting. At the training quarters some of the soldiers put on French and Russian uniforms to represent the enemy.

This arrangement, by the bye, suggests the idea that the Germans have quite made up their mind whom they are going to fight when the great war does come. The pseudo French and Russian then do all in their power to arouse the dogs' dislike by beating and ill-treating the animals, and shouting loudly at them in the two hostile languages. When the dogs' tempers are thoroughly excited against their fictitious adversaries the German soldiers come to the front to pet and caress the angry animals and reward them with meat or some other canine delicacy—a sure road to their favor. Thus the distinction is speedily learned.

In the ambulance service the dog is only playing a different version of the part performed by the famous St. Bernard dogs from time immemorial when succoring worn-out travelers on the pass. So that the ambulance work is perhaps the easiest lesson the dog learns, and it has been brought to a very perfect condition by the Russian Jager regiments. Wolf hounds and sheep dogs are best for the service, being especially valuable in the rocky and wooded districts, where a wounded man lying among underwood or stones is not easily seen by members of the ambulance corps.

Going Out with Firecrackers.

An interesting case of "the ruling passion strong in death" is described by the Toronto Mail. A humorist in Japan who joked all his life told his friends when he was dying that his body was not to be washed after death, but was to be taken at once to the family temple to be cremated. When he died his instructions were followed, and the chief priest took the body to the cremation ground. As soon as it was set on fire the mourners were astonished by several loud explosions. At first they were inclined to take to their heels, but curiosity got the better of fear, and careful inspection showed that the hum-drum had stowed away a large number of firecrackers about his person before his death.

"How about the new neighbors; do you think much of them?" "Well, I should say we do; they have three dogs and a piano; how can we forget them for a minute?"—Inter Ocean.

The last new stage performance for children is slaving. An eight-year-old girl, daughter of the "champion shaver of the world," who gives exhibitions of rapid work at the London Aquarium, had been shaving thirteen men in ten minutes every night until the law stopped her to incense.

NEW BRIGADIER GENERAL.

Col. E. S. Otis Will Replace Gen. W. S. Carrin, Retired.

A person not well acquainted with the size of our regular army might jump to the conclusion, from the frequency with which new brigadier generals are made, that the military branch of the public service is very large. But the frequency of new appointments, says Harper's Weekly, is due to the compulsory retirement law, which shelves an officer, whether he will or not, when he has reached the age of sixty-four years. And as the men who won high rank in the battles of the rebellion are generally well along in life, it is not often that one of them has the



GEN. E. S. OTIS, U. S. A.

privilege of wearing the single star in active service. The most recent appointment is that of Col. E. S. Otis, of the Twentieth infantry, to be brigadier general in the place of Gen. W. S. Carrin, recently retired. This is the second time that Col. Otis' name has been sent to the senate in nomination for this office.

In Mr. Harrison's administration Gen. Carr, an officer distinguished for his services during the war, and also for work done on the frontier, was promoted from a colonelcy to a brigadier generalship. Shortly afterwards Gen. Carr was informed that he had been promoted with the understanding that when his forty years of service had expired he would voluntarily retire. According to the law, an officer, after his length of service, even though he be not sixty-four years old, may retire or be retired. Gen. Carr did not like this arrangement, to which he had not been a party, and therefore refused to retire. He was peremptorily put on the retired list by President Harrison, and the name of Col. Otis sent to the senate in nomination for the vacancy. The senate did not go into executive session before adjournment, and therefore the nomination was void.

When Mr. Cleveland took office he nominated Gen. Carr for the vacancy, and Col. Otis has had to wait almost a year before being obliged to buy a new uniform. Col. Otis was a gallant soldier during the war, and won advancement, both honorary and actual, for gallant and meritorious services in the battles of Spotsylvania and Chapel House. Though a native of Maryland, he was appointed to the army from New York, and served as captain and lieutenant colonel of the One Hundred and Fortieth New York infantry. He was mustered out of the service in 1866, and then appointed lieutenant colonel of the Twenty-second infantry. With this he served till February, 1880, when he became colonel of the Twentieth infantry. During the labor riots of 1877 he commanded his regiment in Pennsylvania. Since then he has been mostly in the northwest, though for two years he was superintendent of the recruiting service in New York.

DISCIPLE OF BLAINE.

Hon. C. A. Boutelle, Maine's Best Known.

Hon. Charles Addison Boutelle, of Bangor, who represents the Fourth Maine district in the lower house of congress, is one of the leaders of the republican party. He has been heard of lately, and has announced himself as the most uncompromising enemy of President Cleveland's foreign policy. Mr. Boutelle served in the civil war as acting master in the United States navy, but was later promoted to lieutenant for gallant conduct in the engagement with the confederate iron-clad Albemarle, May 5, 1864. In 1864



HON. C. A. BOUTELLE, MAINE.

he was, at his own request, honorably discharged from the navy. After having been engaged in business in New York for a few years, he returned to Maine and became editor of the Bangor Whip and Courier. In 1880 he was elected to represent the Fourth Maine district in congress. That his constituents were not disappointed in their expectations of his ability is best proved by the simple statement that he still represents them at Washington. Mr. Boutelle is a nice looking gentleman whose face does not betray his fifty-five years.

A Beggar's Story.

A Paris beggar has been living very comfortably by hanging himself. He would choose a tree where young children were playing, sitting himself up and down to attract attention, so that they would run for help. He would be cut down and restored, and a letter in his pocket would explain his attempted suicide by a statement of his destination. He knew how to attach the noose so as to avoid strangulation.

There's No Such Girl.

We don't remember ever meeting a girl whose shoe was not a mile too big for her.—Atchison Globe.



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ROMAN CHARITIES.

Almsgiving as Practiced Toward the Lat-ter End of the Empire.

It would be a great mistake to suppose that pagan Rome did not know or did not practice almsgiving. Under the republic large sums were often disbursed to secure popularity and influence, but toward its close philosophy promoted a truly philanthropic instead of an ostentatious and selfish expenditure—to succor widows and orphans, to redeem captives, and to bury the dead. From the beginning of the second century, state aid was bestowed monthly on the children of the poor families.

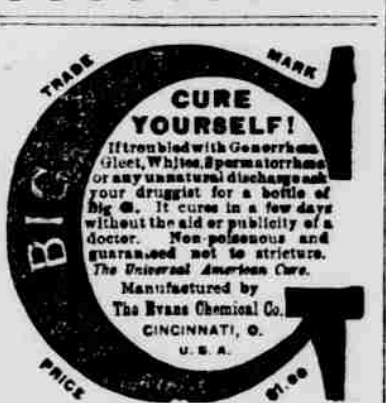
When Antoninus lost his beloved but not very meritorious wife, Faustina, he founded in her honor a charitable institution for poor girls, who were termed *pallares Faustinae*. The example thus given was followed by private individuals, and Pliny made many a noble gift during his life, known to us through his not possessing the specially Christian virtue of concealing his own good deeds.

A lady of Tarracina gave eight thousand pounds to found an institution for poor children, and charitable legacies were not uncommon and epitaphs were sometimes written which represented a dead man congratulating himself on having been merciful and a friend to the poor. A society largely animated by so benevolent a spirit was one prepared to appreciate Christian charity. —Nineteenth Century.

Learning from Experience. "Do you believe," he said, as he tenderly stroked her hair, "do you believe that a deep, abiding love like ours can ever die out?"

"Not now, George, I don't," she responded. "But it always did in my previous engagements." —Chicago Record.

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